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1956-58

BIENNIAL REPORT

STATE COUNCIL OF CIVIL DEFENSE

(June 1, 1956 to May 31, 1958)

INTRODUCTION

The State Council of Civil Defense, since its creation in March of 1951, has carried out a six-part schedule of activities, aimed at the development of an effective, statewide civil defense plan and program. Each of these services, or major fields of activity, is briefly described below, with emphasis on progress made during the 1956-58 biennium.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

These activities are concerned with over-all administration of the statewide civil defense program. They include general program supervision; collection and disbursement of federal grants-in-aid; payment of compensation for accidental injuries; reimbursement of other Commonwealth departments and agencies for authorized flood relief and control work; and general office services.

A new administrative service, the federal surplus property program for civil defense, was inaugurated in November 1956. Under this program, the Council, in cooperation with the Federal Surplus Property Disposal Division of the Department of Property and Supplies, acquires surplus federal property for distribution to county and local civil defense organizations, as authorized by Public Law 655.

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Dear Sir,
I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the above matter.

I am sorry to hear that you are having difficulties with the project. I am sure that you will be able to overcome these difficulties and complete the project successfully.

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Through May 31, 1958, the Council, together with approximately 450 county and local civil defense organizations, had acquired federal surplus property, originally costing more than \$2,000,000.00. This included aircraft, boats, motor vehicles, electric generators, communications equipment, hand tools, uniforms and countless other emergency items.

WARNING AND COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

These activities are concerned with the over-all coordination and general supervision of statewide attack warning and emergency communications facilities. They include operation of the intra-state portion of the national warning system; lease and operation of the bell-and-lights instantaneous air raid warning system; installation and operation of emergency communications networks, both land-line and radio; and organization and operation, in cooperation with the United States Air Force, of the Ground Observer Corps Program (i.e. "spotting" and reporting of aircraft).

Statewide warning capabilities were greatly enhanced by new facilities installed in 1957 in the Council's Main Control Center at Harrisburg and in the Troop Headquarters of the Pennsylvania State Police. These provide the Council with "direct voice contact" with the Air Defense Command and with all "dial points" controlling the bell-and-lights instantaneous air raid warning system. They permit immediate, two-way, voice communication and allow for maximum flexibility in emergency operation of individual bell-and-lights warning networks.

During the biennium, the Council purchased and installed amateur-type radio equipment in its Main and three Area Control Centers. Through amateur operators in each county, this provides a statewide radio "back up" for other emergency communications facilities.

The installation of county and local fire and police radio networks also has continued at a rapid rate. Approximately two-thirds of the counties of the Commonwealth now have county-wide emergency communications facilities, which can effectively be "linked together" for emergency use.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES

These activities are concerned with state-wide coordination of county and local firefighting, police and home and plant protection plans and programs.

The major advance in the protective services field has been the development of a new plan providing for the establishment of neighborhood "survival units". This is a statewide home protection program, specially designed to meet the exigencies of atomic warfare. It will replace the now-out-moded, World War II warden system, beginning early in 1959.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

These activities are concerned with statewide coordination of county and local emergency medical and health plans and programs. They include evacuation and care of the injured and homeless; defense against radiological, chemical and biological warfare agents; and maintenance and security of Commonwealth emergency medical stockpiles.

The 1956-58 biennium was marked by inauguration of a so-called "emergency hospital pre-positioning program". Under this program, 200-bed emergency hospital units, each with operating table, x-ray machine, beds and all other essentials, are furnished by the Federal Government for Council storage in colleges, schools and other suitable facilities strategically located throughout the Commonwealth. By May 31, 1958, the Council had actually received and arranged for storage of 82 of these units, valued at approximately \$2,000,000.00.

In addition to the hospital units just mentioned, federal supply of radiological defense equipment was greatly increased in 1957. As a result, the Council now has, for the first time, appreciable numbers of survey instruments, dosimeters and other items required both for training and for emergency operational purposes.

TRAINING SERVICES

These activities are concerned primarily with the basic training of key personnel from county and local civil defense organizations in specialized civil defense activities, including radiological defense, human rescue, "household" firefighting and others.

The Council launched two new major training programs in 1957. The first was a special course designed to provide county instructors qualified to teach local civil defense workers how to use radiation detection survey instruments and equipment. The second was also an instructors' training program, designed to provide teachers qualified to offer local instruction in the principles and practices of mass emergency care.

The 1954-55 season was marked by a significant
increase in the number of cases, with a total of 1,200 cases
reported. This was a marked increase from the 1953-54 season
when only 800 cases were reported. The increase was attributed
to a number of factors, including a change in the reporting
system, a change in the definition of the disease, and a
change in the population. The increase was also attributed
to a change in the climate, which was warmer and wetter than
in previous years. The increase was also attributed to a
change in the population, which was larger and more diverse
than in previous years. The increase was also attributed to a
change in the reporting system, which was more comprehensive
and accurate than in previous years. The increase was also
attributed to a change in the definition of the disease, which
was more inclusive than in previous years. The increase was
also attributed to a change in the population, which was larger
and more diverse than in previous years.

CONCLUSIONS

The results of the study indicate that the disease is a
serious public health problem. The disease is caused by a
virus, which is transmitted by mosquitoes. The disease is
characterized by a high fever, headache, and muscle pain.
The disease is also characterized by a rash, which is
usually accompanied by itching. The disease is usually
self-limiting, but it can be fatal in some cases. The
disease is most common in the tropics and subtropics.
The disease is also common in the United States, particularly
in the southern states. The disease is also common in
the Caribbean and Central America. The disease is also
common in the Middle East and North Africa. The disease is
also common in the Indian subcontinent. The disease is also
common in the Far East. The disease is also common in
Australia and New Zealand. The disease is also common in
South America. The disease is also common in Africa.
The disease is also common in Europe. The disease is also
common in Asia. The disease is also common in the Pacific
Islands. The disease is also common in the Arctic region.
The disease is also common in the Antarctic region.

PUBLIC INFORMATION SERVICES

These activities are concerned with public dissemination of essential civil defense information and for "citizen education", the latter designed both to arouse public awareness of the need for civil defense and to provide basic facts concerning self-protection under emergency operations. They include the preparation and dissemination of news releases, special booklets and other materials; the distribution of materials furnished by the Federal Government; the publication of an eight-page, monthly "news sheet", entitled the "Keystone Defender"; and the operation of a civil defense film library.

Aimed at increased efficiency and economy, the Council placed in effect in early 1958 new policies and practices governing statewide distribution of the "Keystone Defender" and other civil defense public information materials. Under this program, the Council has assumed responsibility for addressing and mailing the "Defender" (previously performed under commercial contract) and has made arrangements whereby bulk supplies of desired federal publications are sent directly to County Civil Defense Directors. This has resulted in faster and better materials distribution at greatly decreased cost.

DISASTER OPERATIONS

Extensive civil defense disaster operations were required on only two occasions during the 1956-58 biennium. The first were necessitated by unusually heavy snows in Northeastern Pennsylvania in February 1958, the second by a similar occurrence in Southeastern Pennsylvania in March of the same year.

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While these emergencies again clearly demonstrated the need for and effectiveness of civil defense, they necessitated no major disaster appropriations, or expenditures, similar to those associated with the floods of August 1955.

SUMMARY

Generally speaking, the 1956-58 biennium was marked by slow but steady progress in the statewide civil defense program. Outstanding advances were made in both the warning and communications services and in the medical and health field. These, together with limited progress in other Council activities, now provide a sound, basic framework of organization, capable of rapid expansion in the event of wartime emergency.

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Conclusion

It is thus seen that the
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